(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to achieve the target of National Highways in Gujarat by the turn of this century?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No targets have been fixed.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Loss of Economy due to strike by private bus operators

117. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of the loss to the economy and the inconvenience caused to public due to the recent strike of the private passenger bus operators who were protesting against the irresponsible manner in which the service tax is being levied;

(b) what are the steps Government have taken to prevent such inconvenience to public and the loss to the economy due to such strike;

(c) what were the demands of the strikers; and

(d) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Losses incurred by Indian Road Transport Corporation

118. DR. MOHAN BABU:
DR. ALLALI P. RAJKUMAR:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated losses of the Indian Road Transport Corporation;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the last 12 years several high powered committees have recommended closure of this ailing corporation; and

(c) the reasons for which their recommendations have not been implemented and the present policy of Government with regard to winding up of the corporation?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Indian Roads Constructions Corporation whose accumulated losses aggregate to Rs. 452.946 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has since been decided to wind up the Corporation.

पत्तनों पर माल चढ़ाना और उतारना

119. श्री नागमणि:
चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ पत्तनों पर काफी भीड़-भाड़ है जिसके कारण आयात और निर्यात की जाने वाली बहुत सी चीजें पत्तनों पर पड़ी रहती हैं और निर्यात किए जाने वाले माल को चढ़ाने और उतारने में काफी समय लग जाता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन पत्तनों के नाम क्या हैं; और

(ग) सरकार ने उन पत्तनों पर माल चढ़ाने और उतारने में कोई देरी न हो इसके लिए क्या प्रयास किये हैं?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी० जी० वेंकटरामन): (क) और (ख) जी हां। मुंबई,